

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11

TRSE-00 COME-00 AGR-20 DRC-01 /180 W

----- 014891

R 121220Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7719

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0326

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, EG

SUBJ: INITIAL SUDANESE REACTION ANNOUNCEMENT RE STRENGTHENING
EGYPTIAN SUDANESE COOPERATION

1. DURING DISCUSSION OTHER SUBJECTS FEB 13, I ASKED FONMINISTRY
USEC FADL OBEID FOR HIS REACTION RECENTLY ANNOUNCED "POLITICAL
ACTION AND ECONOMIC INTERGRATION PROGRAM" BETWEEN EGYPT AND
SUDAN, AGREED DURING PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S TWO DAY VISIT WITH
PRESIDENT SADAT FEB 11-12. OBEID IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED THAT
ARRANGEMENTS WERE "NOT UNITY". THEY WERE INTENDED REINFORCE
COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS.
SINCE NEITHER EGYPT NOR SUDAN HAD SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS SURPLUS
CAPITAL, OBEID OPINED THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE LEFT
OPEN FOR PARTICIPATION IN PARTICULAR AREAS BY OTHER ARAB OR
AFRICAN STATES. "DOOR WILL BE LEFT AJAR FOR WEALTHY NEIGHBORS"

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OBEID CONCLUDED, "AND IF THEY DON'T COME IN, WE WILL PULL

THEM IN" (IN WHAT MAY BE UNDERSTATEMENT OF YEAR, COMMUNIQUE AS RELEASED HERE STATES TOW PRESIDENTS "WELCOMED ARAB INVESTMENTS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES".)

2. IN RESONSE MY QUESTION, OBEID SAID THAT EXISTING EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE NILE WATERS COMMITTEE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE SUBSUMED BY NEW ARRANGEMENTS. HOWEVER, ANY DEVELOPMENTAL WORK RELATIVE NILE WOULD PRESUMABLY BECOME PROVINCE TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. I ASKED OBEID WHETHER NEW MACHINERY MIGHT NOT REQUIRE SOME SUPPORTING SECRETARIAT. OBEID EXPRESSED DOUBT, INDICATING WHATEVER COORDINATING AND PREPARATORY WORK MIGHT BE NECESSARY WOULD PROBABLY BECOME PROVINCE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. OBEID CONFIRMED RECENT VISIT ADDIS ABABA GOS MINISTATE IRRIGATION YAHIA ABDEL MAJID HAD BEEN TO INFORM IEG OF UNSPECIFIED STEPS GOS PLANNING TAKE RE BLUE NILE WATERS. WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO, FACT YAHIA ALSO CARRIED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM NIMEIRI TO HIM COULD BE RELATED NEW EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE PROGRAM.

4. LOCAL CONTROLLED PRESS FEB 13 LARGELY DEVOTED TO REPORTING ON, AND RESULTS OF, NIMEIRI'S VISIT, INCLUDING TEXT FINAL COMMUNIQUE. IN ONE INTERESTING VARIANT FROM FBIS VERSION, LOCAL PRESS (NO DOUBT IN DEFERENCE TO SUDAN'S OWN SOUTHER CHRISTIANS AND THOSE IN NEIGHBORING ETHIOPIA) OMITTS WORD "ARABISM" WITH REFERENCE TO PRESERVING OR RESTORING JERUSALEM.

5. COMMENT. WHILE NEW EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE ARRANGEMENTS SO FAR ONLY SO MUCH PAPER, SUDANESE CLEARLY HOPE THEY WILL FACILITATE INFLOW CAPITAL FROM MONIED NEIGHBORS, NOTABLY ARAB OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THIS CONNECTION, JOINT COMMUNIQUE SPEAKS OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN AREAS WHEAT, OIL SEEDS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION, AS WELL AS EXPEDITING FINAL STUDIES RE DETAILED COSTS JONGELEI CANAL SCHEME.
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